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E. German reported held as spy

From Inquirer Wire Services

VISBY, Sweden — One of East Germany's leading nuclear scientists has been arrested and charged with spying for West Germany, participants in an international nuclear conference in Sweden said yesterday.

The scientist, Stefan Frauendorf, was arrested by security police in November and will be tried in a closed military court in East Berlin on charges of giving West Germany secret information from the Rossendorf nuclear science institute near Dresden, sources at the conference said.

The sources learned of Frauendorf's arrest after he failed to arrive for the Visby International Conference on Nuclear Science. About 300 nuclear scientists from 28 countries attended.

Participants at the conference told the Swedish news agency TT that Frauendorf's studies of the basic physical qualities of matter were of no military significance. Fellow scientists said that he had been allowed to work at several Western research institutes and that his findings had been published in international journals.

"I am convinced that Frauendorf is innocent ... He simply had no time to be a spy," John F. Sharpey-Shafer of the University of Liverpool told the news agency.

In Bonn, meanwhile, West German government sources said the 25 people released this week by the Soviet bloc in the biggest East-West spy swap since World War II all had been serving terms as Western spies.

They said that the majority of the 19 East Germans and six Poles had been serving life sentences and that the others had been given terms of 10 years or more.

One of the freed East Germans told West German television last night that he had been tortured and drugged while being questioned by East Germany's state security service after his arrest.

The man, who was not identified, said he had been repeatedly kicked during his interrogation and had suffered serious damage to his liver.